

REMARKS

The Office Action dated July 21, 2011, has been received and carefully considered. In this Reply, claims 23 and 33 have been amended. Support for the amendment to claim 23 can be found in the specification and drawings as originally filed. Applicants reserve the right to pursue the inventions of the originally filed and previously pending claims later during the prosecution of this application or during a subsequently filed application. Reconsideration of the outstanding rejections in the Office Action is respectfully requested in view of the following remarks.

Claim Allowance

Applicants thank the Examiner for identifying claim 43 as allowable subject matter. Applicants submit this response with a request for continued examination. By the foregoing amendment, the pending claims have been amended to incorporate the allowable subject matter identified in claim 43.

Art-based Rejections

The Office rejects claims 23 to 28, 31 to 34 and 40 to 42 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a), as being allegedly anticipated by EP 1271666 (“Onabe”). The Office further rejects claims 23 to 25, 27 to 34, 36, and 38 to 42 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by US 6669774 (“Zhang”). Claim 26 stands rejected under U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over Zhang in view of Onabe. Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of these rejections in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remark.

By the foregoing amendment, the allowable subject matter of claim 43 has been incorporated in the remaining claim set. In view of the Office’s reasoning in the Office Action regarding claim 43, none of the cited documents disclose or render obvious, either alone or in

combination, the present claims. For at least this reason, the art-based rejections should be withdrawn, which is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

Applicants respectfully submit that the present application is in condition for allowance, and an early indication of the same is courteously solicited. The Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned by telephone at the below listed telephone number in order to expedite resolution of any issues and to expedite passage of the present application to issue, if any comments, questions, or suggestions arise in connection with the Present Application.

Applicants believe no additional fees are due with this paper, but if the Commissioner believes additional fees are due, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees, which may be required, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account Number 50-5475.

Respectfully submitted,

October 21, 2011

/Thomas P. Weber/

Date

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